

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PC-01 IGA-02 EB-07 AGR-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 /093 W  
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R 211410Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2675

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, NG

SUBJ: US-NIGER BILATERALS

FOR AID/ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS TO PEACE CORP FOR TORIAN

REF: A. NIAMEY 4857, B. BARON-SHEAR LETTER OF JANUARY 16, 1976

1. SINCE SUCCESSFUL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GON  
REPRESENTATIVES DURING YOUR VISIT HERE IN DECEMBER  
REGARDING US-NIGER COLLABORATION ON OUR DEVELOPMENT  
AND OTHER PROGRAMS (REF A), QUESTION OF SCHEDULING  
BILATERALS HAS COME UP FREQUENTLY IN OUR VARIOUS  
DISCUSSIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS, MOST RECENTLY  
DURING MEETING RDO BARON AND I HAD WITH SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT ANNOUN. HE REMINED US THAT  
BALL WAS IN OUR COURT REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR TIME  
AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. HE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE  
GON ATTACHES TO THESE DISCUSSIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE  
THAT WE COULD COME TO AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON NEXT  
ROUND.

2. RDO BARON HAD EARLIER INFORMALLY SUGGESTED  
THE POSSIBILITY OF A TWO DAY SESSION IN WASHINGTON  
IN FEBRUARY, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO CONSULTATION  
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ON BOTH SIDES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR COOPERATION MOUNKEILA. THIS TIME FRAME WAS SUGGESTED KNOWING THAT JANUARY WAS OUT, THAT WE PROBABLY WOULD WANT TO HAVE TALKS BEFORE FIRST MEETING OF CLUB DES AMIS IN MARCH, AND A FEW MONTHS BEFORE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR FY 78 PROGRAMMING ARE SCHEDULED.

3. WHILE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WILL BE BUSY MONTHS FOR GON DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS, WITH ANNUAL MEETINGS PLANNED IN JANUARY WITH FRENCH AND IN EARLY FEBRUARY WITH FED, ANNOU MENTIONED THAT MID-FEBRUARY WOULD BE EXCELLENT TIME FOR HIM AS THIS WOULD PERMIT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AFTER WHICH HE COULD VISIT OTTAWA TO PREPARE FOR TALKS WITH CANADIANS WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN NIAMEY AT END OF FEBRUARY. DURING JANUARY 15 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE HE RE-CONFIRMED THAT MID-FEBRUARY PERIOD ACCEPTABLE TO GON.

4. KEEPING IN MIND STAFF WORK REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR SUCH MEETINGS (STATE 269209) AND OUR DISCUSSIONS IN NIAMEY DURING CWR WORKSHOP AIMING AT JANUARY OR FEBRUARY DATE FOR TALKS, WE HOPE EARLY DECISION CAN BE REACHED ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE NEED FOR DECISION ON SCOPE OF TALKS. GON VISUALIZES THESE DISCUSSION AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND WE UNDERSTAND THIS TO BE OUR VIEW ALSO. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE A REVIEW OF NIGER'S NEEDS, AND OUR PLANS, FOR PC PROGRAM. AID OF COURSE HAS MAJOR SHARE OF DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT IN NIGER, BUT PC PROGRAM IS ALSO SUBSTANTIAL; SIGNIFICANT PC RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED TO THIS COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY RESERVING SOME TIME DURING BILATERALS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PC PRESUMABLY AFTER AID AGENDA IS COMPLETED. IN ADDITION TO FACILITATING PC PLANNING AND CLARIFYING GON NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS, SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE USEFUL PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING GON'S LONG-RANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTENTIONS TOWARDS ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF PC IN NIGER.

6. RDO BARON HAS EXCHANGED THOUGHTS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOU ON A.I.D. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, SEE REF B). ANNOU AND HE FEEL THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE.

(A) NIGERIEN, DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES (3 YEAR PLAN)  
(B) AID PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMING SYSTEMS  
(C) SECTORS FOR MEDIUM TERM AID AND COOPERATION.  
(1) ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY INCLUDING  
REGIONAL PROGRAMS  
(2) FY 77 PROJECT PLANNING  
(3) FY 78 PROGRAMMING  
(D) NIGER'S LONG TERM NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

7. ITEM B IS DESIGNED TO BRIEF GON DELEGATION  
HOW A.I.D. WORKS, OUR PROGRAM CYCLE, OUR PRIORITIES  
AND OBJECTIVES, ETC. ITEM C-1 WILL PERMIT US TO  
REVIEW AID ACTIVITIES BOTH BILATERAL AND REGIONAL  
THAT ARE UNDERWAY AND ADDRESS ANY PROBLEMS OR  
QUESTIONS - VIZ SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCING FOR THE  
NIGER CEREALS PROGRAM, GON POSITION ON NIGER RIVER  
COMMISSION AND INDICATIVE PLAN; ETC. ITEM C-2  
WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFIRM UNDER-  
STANDING ON PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR FY 77.  
ITEM C-3 WILL PROVIDE A MEANS TO IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES  
FOR POSSIBLE COLLABORATION IN FY 78 (AND AFTER).

8. ITEM D, CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS  
REQUIREMENTS FOR A LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
SAHEL AS SEEN BY NIGER (CLARK AMENDMENT; CLUB DES  
AMIS). IT WILL ALSO BE SEEN BY GON ON OCCASION  
TO REQUEST US ASSISTANCE IN LONG TERM PLANNING.

9. ADO IS PREPARED TO DRAFT POSITION PAPERS ON  
VARIOUS AGENDA ITEMS AS NECESSARY.

10. RECOMMEND THAT (A) AID CONSIDER AS POSSIBLE  
DATES TWO DAY PERIOD IN WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16TH,  
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OR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23RD, (B) WE BE AUTHORIZED  
TO INFORM GON THAT WE WELCOME GON DELEGATION  
TO WASHINGTON ON DATE IN FEBRUARY THAT HAS  
BEEN SELECTED AND (C) TIME BE PROGRAMMED TO  
PERMIT SOME DISCUSSION OF PEACE CORP PROGRAM.HECK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JAN 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976NIAMEY00258  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760023-0608  
**From:** NIAMEY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760135/aaaabepq.tel  
**Line Count:** 159  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 NIAMEY 4857  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-NIGER BILATERALS FOR AID/ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT  
**TAGS:** EAID, PFOR, NG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006